

Docket No. 2000-0067-01

USSN 09/738,042

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- C) a grating positioned to reflect a selected narrow band of wavelengths back, via said second direction beam expander and said first direction beam expander, to said laser chamber for amplification.

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6. (Amended) A narrow band excimer laser comprising:
- A) a laser chamber comprising
- 1) two electrodes;
 - 2) an excimer laser gas;
 - 3) a blower means for circulating the gas;
 - 4) a pulse power means for creating discharges between said electrodes to produce excimer laser pulses;
- B) a resonant cavity comprising an output coupler and a line narrowing unit said line narrowing unit comprising;
- 1) first direction beam expander positioned to receive a beam from said laser chamber said beam defining a generally rectangular cross-section and to expand the cross-section of the beam from said laser in a first direction;
 - 2) a second direction beam expander positioned to expand the cross-section said beam in a second direction; and
 - 3) a grating positioned to reflect a selected narrow band of wavelengths back, via said second direction beam expander and said first direction beam expander, to said laser chamber for amplification.
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REMARKS

All claims were rejected on the basis of Das (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,409) which is a patent assigned to Applicants' employer. Applicants request reconsideration for the following reason.

The Examiner has misinterpreted the nature of the beam expansion. It is the cross-section of the beam which is being expanded. In the Das reference all expansion of the cross-section